

The Devil & Pop Culture

Lev 18:3-5 “After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. Ye shall do my judgments and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the Lord your God. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the Lord”

In the verses above, the Lord was calling the people of Israel to live according to His statutes and ordinances and not according to the ways of the world. These words still hold powerful truth for God’s children today, especially His young people.

Pop-Culture is defined as the combination of interests and activities that a group of people share. Knowing how we should live in this world and its pop culture in the light of Scripture is vitally important to our spiritual health and life.

1. What do you think are some interests and activities that are popular with teens in your circles today? What do you think the appeal of social media is? What is your motive for social media, God’s glory or your own? For example, what is the purpose of your Facebook home page?
2. Do you feel that the devil could be present when teens in the church are involved with these interests and activities? Give some examples of how the devil could or even has presented himself in your personal experiences.
3. If you feel the devil is present with a certain activity or interest how should this be handled? Avoid all together or continue with vigilance and caution? How do we decide? John 17:15-18, 1 Peter 5:8, 1 John 2:15-17
4. Why do you think the devil would like it when teens in the church are interested in the same activities as teens of the world? Mark 4:9. Note for thought: When you look at the lives, behaviors, appearance of pop musicians, actors, is this the type of person that you want associate yourself with? Is this the music that you want to sing?
5. Think about how much time you spend on these things of "Pop-Culture". (E.g. texting, social media, popular music, movies). Why do you think the devil likes it when these things consume most of our time? How do we be good stewards of our time? Matt. 16:25, 26; Eph. 5:15, 16 Note for thought: What if we used our Bibles the same amount of time we used our phones?
6. Many things in pop culture can be innocent or even beneficial. What are some examples of useful things in pop culture for Christians? However, the devil can also use these as a tool for sin. What are some of the ways you think the devil specifically uses pop culture? 2 Cor. 2:11, James 4:11

7. What can we do to ensure that the devil is not a part of our interests and activities? How can we help our friends with this as well? Eph. 6:10-18, Gal. 6:1
8. How can we not just avoid the devil but better glorify God in our interests and activities? What good habits could replace your bad habits with? Gal 5:16, Hebrews 4:12
9. Define the antithesis. How can we be better witnesses to the world with our interests and activities? Romans 12:2, 1 Peter 2:9, Matt. 5:16

The Devil and Our Relationships

Our Lord and heavenly Father has seen fit in His infinite wisdom and counsel to bless us with relationships. This is born out of the perfect fellowship and communion that He enjoys in His triune self. We have so many and varied relationships in our lives that serve to test and strengthen our faith and grow our covenant bonds with one another. We have our relationships in our families with our parents and siblings. We have our relationships with friends. We have our relationships with those in authority over us in school, church, and work. And, we have our relationships with our neighbors, those outside the church.

In Proverbs 1:8, 9 we read of the relationship between parent and child “My son, hear the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother. For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.”

Throughout I Samuel, we read of the beautiful friendship between David and Jonathan. I Samuel 18:1 reads “the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul”. What a close friendship!

In Romans 13:1, 2, we read of our relationship with those in authority “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”

In II Corinthians 6, we read of our relationship with those of this world. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness...”

Friendships & Dating

1. We know the influences our friends and those we date have on us. We must be wise and thoughtful when choosing our friends and those whom we date. What are some characteristics of a Godly friend, of those who we should date?
2. What are some ways the devil can tempt us in our friendships, in our dating?
3. What are things that we can do to glorify God in our friendships, in our dating?

Authority

4. As Christian young people, what is our calling with respect to those in authority? How does Satan tempt us to sin against this calling?
5. How does God bless you through your parents? How does the devil tempt us in our relationships with our parents in the home?

6. In light of the sin and wickedness that abounds in our government, how do we heed the call to respect those in authority? When our own president makes decisions that go against our Reformed beliefs, how do we pray for our leaders, as we are called to?

Our Neighbors of the World

7. What is God's calling to us in regards to our worldly neighbor?
8. What is the devil's relationship to our unbelieving neighbor?
9. How might the devil attack us and negatively affect our relationship with God and the church through our unbelieving neighbor?

The Devil and the End Times

Rev 12:9, 12-13, “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Therefore rejoice ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.”

In the above verses, the apostle John warns of the persecution that the woman (the Church) will face at the hands of the dragon (the Devil). Discussion of the end times as it pertains to the young believer in the New dispensation is both pertinent and critically important as we see history rushing forward to that end of history when Christ will return.

1. Eschatology is the term that means the study of the end times. Why is the study of the end times important for our young people? What are signs that you, as a young person, see that we are in the end times? What are specific current events that you see are the work of the devil?
2. Knowing our enemy is very important. Based on scripture, what do we know of Satan? By what names is Satan known to us? What do his many names tell us about Satan?
3. The devil's attacks are numerous and varied (I John 3:8, Eph. 6:12). What are his attacks in the lives of young people? In your own life?
4. How does he attack our churches? How does he attack your own personal congregation? Is a strong denomination like the Protestant Reformed churches a target for his attacks? How are we vulnerable to his attacks?
5. Where do we find our comfort facing such a terrible foe whose attacks are so varied and whose minions are so numerous?
6. In Ephesians 6:10-18, we read of putting on the whole armor of God. How do we prepare our defenses against the attacks of the devil upon our churches? In the lives of young people? In your own life?
7. II Thess. 2:3 “Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.” The son of perdition refers to the Antichrist. Please describe your understanding of the Antichrist and the role that he will play in the persecution of the church. (Rev 13)